

CITY HALL NEWS

Indian Trails Library

Card Making For All Ages

Saturday, December 13, 2014-10:00am
As the holidays approach, it is never too early to start handcrafting thoughtful cards for friends, co-workers, and family members. Join us in the Indian Trails auditorium for this hands-on family event.

Registration recommended.

Discover Club: Who Knows What Lurks in the Back of the Fridge?

Monday, December 15, 2014-7:00pm
Our refrigerators do and they're telling all! Imagine that your refrigerator confronted you about the food you throw away. This production is in a reader's theater format that includes mini-skits, contest, limericks, and even a song.

Recommended for ages 10-adults.

Gift of Reading Story Time

Wednesday, December 17, 2014 -10:30am
Once a month, the Gift of Reading Program provides each preschooler attending story time with a different book to take home to read and start their personal library. Come to story time today and celebrate the Gift of Reading by taking home a free book! Sponsored by the Saint Louis County Library Foundation.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, December 30, 2014-1:00pm-4:00pm

Support the Red Cross and help patients in need by donating blood. Donors may be 16 years old with parental consent or 17 years old and up. All donors must present a photo ID. Walk-ins are welcome, appointments will take priority. To make an appointment, please visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

Women Living Whole

If you are interested in joining this awesome session, please contact Women Living Whole by December 15, 2014 at: www.womenlivingwhole@gmail.com or call 314-942-1140.

Aldersperson (Run For Office) Candidates

WARD 1 WARD 2 WARD 3

Hello Vinita Park, if you are a resident of

the Vinita Park Municipality and have the qualifications to run for office as an Aldersperson, you may declare your candidacy at Vinita Park City Hall on December 16, 2014 at 8:00am till 5pm and the closing date will be January 20, 2014.

BASIC EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

Once you have gathered the supplies for a basic emergency kit, you may want to consider adding the following:

- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash or traveler's checks and change
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container. You can use the [Emergency Financial First Aid- EFFAK](#) (PDF – 997Kb) developed by operation Hope, FEMA and Citizen Corps to help you organize your information
- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or free information from the web site. (See Publications)
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold weather climate
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in cold-weather climate
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper- when diluted, nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water
- By using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Paper and pencils
- Books, games, puzzles, or other activities for children

Kit Storage Locations

Since you do not know where you will be when an emergency occurs, prepare supplies for home, work and vehicles.

HOME

Your disaster supply kit should contain essential food, water, and supplies for at least three days. Keep this kit in a designated place and have it ready in case you have to leave your home quickly. Make sure all family members know where the kit is kept. Additionally, you may want to consider having supplies for sheltering for up to two weeks.

VEHICLE

In case you are stranded, keep a kit of emergency supplies in your car. This kit should include:

- Jumper cables
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- First aid kits and necessary medications in case you are away from home for a prolonged time
- Food items containing protein such as nuts and energy bars; canned fruit and portable can opener
- Water for each person and pet in your car
- AM/FM radio to listen to traffic reports and emergency messages
- Cat litter or sand for better tire rotation
- Shovel/Ice scraper
- Warm clothes, gloves, hats, sturdy boots, jackets, and an extra change of clothes.
- Blankets or sleeping bags

Also consider

- A Fully-charged cell phone and phone charger
- Flares or reflective triangle
- Baby formula and diapers if you have a small child

Be prepared for an emergency by keeping your gas tank full and if you find yourself stranded, be safe and stay in your car, put on your flashers, call for help and wait until it arrives.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- December 3 – Municipal Court
- December 5 – Yard Waste
- December 9 - Trash & Recycle Pickup
- December 11 – Senior Holiday Luncheon
- December 12 – Holiday Lighting Contest
- December 12 – Pet Tag Registration Begins
- December 13 – Breakfast With Santa-9:00am-11:00am
- December 13 - Santa Comes To Town-12:00pm-4:00pm
- December 15 - Board Of Alderman Meeting 6:30pm
- December 16 – Trash & Recycle Pickup
- December 16- First Date For Candidacy Filing For General Municipal Election
- December 17 – Municipal Court- 10:00am
- December 19 - Yard Waste Pickup
- December 23 – Trash & Recycle Pickup
- December 25 – Christmas Day City Hall Closed
- December 30 – Trash & Recycle Pickup
- December 31- New Year's Eve



VINITA PARK CITY HALL

8374 MIDLAND
(314)428-7373
FAX: (314)428-7379
MONDAY – FRIDAY
8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

MAYOR

James W. McGee
426-5529

COLLECTOR

Jeanette Carridine
428-7373

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

WARD 1

Brian Gremaud
922-0885

Richard Redel
368-2329

WARD 2

Wanda Fairley
395-7028

Ora Stokes
429-6863

WARD 3

Celeste McGee
426-5529

Dennis Hayden
276-6188



Leading The Way In St. Louis County

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2014 VOLUME 2014:09 NEWS WORTH KNOWING

WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

I would like to thank the Chief of Police Mr. Tim Swope, the police officers, and the Critical Response Team. They saturated all participating municipalities with marked vehicles within the 24:1 footprint. All of our residents, businesses, and the entire City of Vinita Park were well protected.

We hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving. This is a time to be with our family and friends to reflect on the blessings and to thank God for all his resources. Now that the holiday season is upon us, now it's a time to reflect on helping families in need. The City will have Breakfast with Santa on December 13, 2014 from 9am to 11am and Santa Coming to Town from 12pm to 4pm. There will be signs on each block and the signs will say; "Santa will stop here". Please have your family and cameras ready to take memorable pictures with Santa at Santa's stops.

Our football team won their division and presented the City with an Appreciation Plaque. We are proud of our young people achievements. They had a banquet November 22, 2014 acknowledging their individual achievements along with the

cheerleaders. They received a big trophy for being divisional champs. Congratulations, once again, on being divisional Champions.

Come join Women Living Whole at their Living the Vision workshop. Learn how to create attainable goals that will guide you to create your vision. In this session, participants get a workbook that walks them through creating their goals. Once the goals are created, participants will be encouraged to create a vision board. At the end of the session, women will walk out with well thought out goals and a vision board so they can visually see what they want to accomplish. This is a session you do not want to miss. Come join Women Living Whole, Saturday January 3, 2015 at 3:00pm in the Vinita Park City Hall meeting room. If additional information is needed, please contact Ms. Jeanine Williams at 314-359-4200.

We ask that you continue to work together to make Vinita Park a strong community by engaging our families and successful children.

James W. McGee
Mayor/City Administrator

YOUR ALDERMEN'S CORNER



Happy Holidays Vinita Park Residents

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. As we approach the holiday season, the City of Vinita Park will be having its Annual Breakfast with Santa and the Santa Coming to Town Celebration, Saturday, December 13, 2014 for Vinita Park children only.

Breakfast with Santa will start at 9am to 11am for children ages 0-12 at Vinita Park City Hall. After the Breakfast, Santa will be coming to town in a horse and carriage starting at the Yellow Keys parking lot on 8525 Page Ave at 12:00 noon.

To qualify for the Bikes give away, you must bring of proof residency.

1. You must have a picture ID or Driver's License showing that you live in Vinita Park.
2. Your children must be on your occupancy permit.
3. Grandparents; you must bring your grandchildren with you if they are not on your occupancy permit.
4. All children must be with their parent or grandparent. Please do not send your children to the City Hall alone because they will not be able to participate in the bike give away.
5. No Vinita Park City employees.

Christmas Lighting Contest

Deadline for our Annual Vinita Park Christmas Lighting Contest is Friday, December 12, 2014 at 5:00pm.

It has been a pleasure working with all the people who take time out of their busy schedule to make our City events successful.

I would like to give a special shout out to Mayor James W. McGee, The Board of Alderman, Chief Tim Swope and the Vinita Park Police Department, Gerald French and Public Works, residents, volunteers, and friends for helping making Vinita Park what it is today.

Our City events wouldn't be successful if it

wasn't for our Mayor, City Officials, and our local businesses for their monetary donations and gifts. I do appreciate all of your help throughout 2014. It was great working with you. I look forward to working with all of you in 2015

Christmas Time Message

Christmas time comes around only once a year. It's a time when we celebrate our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Birth.

It's the time for giving, charitable giving, and a time we spend with our family, and friends. It's the time we open our hearts freely to those who are less fortunate, no matter what race, color, or creed.

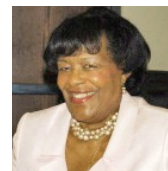
It's a time our hearts grow tender with childhood memories especially when you got your first bike or roller skates that was under the Christmas tree.

No matter how you celebrate Christmas, it's here forever. The good you do for others is good you do for yourself.

So take the time out to show love, be happy, to have Peace, and Joy. Bringing the spirit of Christmas from my home to yours, Be blessed and safe, Merry Christmas to all and have a prosperous New Year.

Working hard for progress and stable leadership in our Community,

Celeste McGee
3rd Ward Alderwoman



Hello Ward II/Seniors

"Happy Holidays To All Of Vinita Park"

Tis The Season to be thankful for all the blessings we have enjoyed down through the year.

I hope everyone had a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving, with family and friends. As we look forward to Christmas, one thing to remember is, "The Reason for The Season" and to keep Christ in our Christmas.

Seniors, our Christmas Luncheon will, be as noted on your Calendar, the 11th of December at 12:00pm, at the City

Hall. I hope all can, and will attend.

I am asking all seniors who have had birthdays from August thru December to please call City Hall and give Ms. Brown the date of your birthday; we want to celebrate them at our luncheon.

Let all the heavens resound with His name; Let all the earth sing his glory and fame, ocean and mountain, stream, forest, and flower

Echo his praises and tell of his power. (Blessing and Honor and Glory and a Power, "Horatius Bonar")

**"Leadership with Integrity
Accessible, Committed
& Honest"**

**Alderwoman
Ora Mae Stokes, Ward 2**



HELLO WARD II

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family, Don't forget to come up to the board meeting every third Monday of the month at 6:30pm, to voice your opinion.

Also, don't forget December 13, 2014 at 9:00am Breakfast with Santa at the City Hall. Then at 12:00pm, Santa will be coming to town.

Remember, if you need help paying your utility bills; call the Community Action Agency at (314) 863-0015.

I would like to give a shout out to our Police Department and Public Works for doing a wonderful job in our community.

After the trash pickup, please take your can off the curb; remember we want our city to look beautiful.

Beyond Housing is still taking applications for fixing up your home.

The Citizen Policeman Academy is going great, classes for the next session will probably be next year, and I will let you all know next year some time.

Wanda Fairley
Alderwoman, Ward II

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

Decorating Safety

- Never overload electrical circuits or outlets. Use Underwriter Laboratories Inc. (UL) certified surge protector strips if multiple outlets are required.
- Plug outdoor cords into GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) outlets. It is suggested that GFCI outlets be used for indoor lights, as well.
- Keep electrical connections off the ground and away from water.
- Only use insulated staples to attach extension cords and lights to wood. Never use nails, tacks, or regular staples.
- Never leave holiday tree lights on when away from your residence.
- Avoid running outdoor lights or extension cords through door or window openings where they can trip over them.
- Watch for and correct problems with cords and faulty sockets, and always avoid jerking on wires because you can break insulation and damage plugs.

- Make certain lights, decorations and other electrical devices are disconnected when installing or working on them.

Trash Containers

Please remember to remove your trash/recycle/yard waste containers from the curb the same day service is rendered to avoid receiving a citation.

In addition, you may contact Republic Services (636-947-5959) to receive a trash container.

Leaves/Yard Waste

Yard waste pickup will be every Friday. Please use the yard waste container or brown yard waste bags. Please do not rake leaves into the streets.

Street Sweeper

The street sweeper will operate from April 1st through December 1st.

Snow Removal

As we approach the winter months, please take notice of no parking signs to allow thorough plowing of all streets.

Trees & Limbs

Please call Ameren UE (1-800-552-7583) if any limbs on your property are on electrical lines.

Occupancy Inspection and Permit Required

It shall be unlawful for any person or family to occupy, or for any owner or agent therefore to permit the occupancy, of any building or dwelling until the inspection is complete and occupancy permit has been issued.

The occupancy permit shall not be issued until all violations on the property have been brought into compliance.

Gerald B. French, Sr.
Public Works Director

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS



However, the Police Department is in emergency status. All vacation and off days have been cancelled. Officers will be working 12 hour shifts to better cover the City with heavy patrols. The 24:1 municipalities have formed a critical response team to handle emergency situations in the area. Approximately 80 police officers and emergency response personnel are assigned to the unit. You may see police patrol cars from surrounding police agencies.

One of the main missions of the Critical Response Team is to saturate neighborhoods with additional patrols. Rest assured, we will do everything we can to keep the entire community safe.

Col. Tim Swope
Chief of Police
Vinita Park Police Department

We have not received any information pertaining to Vinita Park being targeted by any aggressive groups.